

Application No. 10/025,472

Amdt. dated January 7, 2004

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Docket No. 1501-1148

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve, ~~[[said]]~~ a cardiac valve comprising an anterior and posterior leaflet, each protruding from a corresponding leaflet base at ~~[[the]]~~ a valve annulus, said means being structured and arranged for modifying ~~[[said]]~~ a cardiac valve, in which a distance between ~~[[the]]~~ anterior and posterior leaflet bases is determined, said means comprising:

at least one stabilizing element <sup>for</sup> ~~an~~ an atrial side of ~~[[the]]~~ a cardiac valve, which has been brought into a selected position at each ~~[[of the]]~~ leaflet bases, ~~said leaflet bases being~~ base, so that each leaflet base is interconnected by means of said stabilizing element which is extended across ~~[[the]]~~ an atrial side of ~~[[the]]~~ a cardiac valve.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve, ~~[[said]]~~ a cardiac valve comprising an anterior and posterior leaflet, each

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protruding from a corresponding leaflet base at ~~[[the]]~~ a valve annulus, said means being arranged for modifying ~~[[said]]~~ a cardiac valve, in which a distance between ~~[[the]]~~ anterior and posterior leaflet bases is determined, said means for repair comprising:

at least one stabilizing element, and

a steerable applicator for endovascular entrance into ~~[[the]]~~ a left atrium, for steering said stabilizing element into a selected position at each ~~[[of the]]~~ leaflet ~~[[bases]]~~ base on an atrial side of ~~[[the]]~~ a cardiac valve, ~~[[said]]~~ so that each leaflet ~~bases~~ being base is interconnected by means of said stabilizing element which is extended across ~~[[the]]~~ an atrial side of ~~[[the]]~~ a cardiac valve.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve, said cardiac valve comprising an anterior and posterior leaflet, each protruding from a corresponding leaflet base at the valve annulus, said means being arranged for modifying ~~[[said]]~~ a cardiac valve, in which a distance between the anterior and posterior leaflet bases is determined, said means for repair comprising:

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at least one stabilizing element, which is provided with a first and a second end, which has been brought into a first and a second selected position at an atrial side of [[the]] a valve annulus, [[said]] so that leaflet bases of a cardiac valve are thereby [[being]] interconnected by means of said stabilizing element, which is arranged to be extended across [[the]] an atrial side of [[the]] a cardiac valve.

Claim 14. (currently amended): A means for the repair of a cardiac valve, said cardiac valve comprising an anterior and posterior leaflet, each protruding from a protruding leaflet base at [[the]] a valve annulus, said means being arranged for modifying [[said]] a cardiac valve in which a distance between [[the]] anterior and posterior leaflet bases is determined, said means for repair comprising:

at least one stabilizing element which is provided with a first and a second end, and

a steerable applicator for endovascular entrance into [[the]] a left atrium, for steering said stabilizing element into a first and a second selected position at an

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atrial side of [[the]] a valve annulus, [[said]] leaflet bases thereby being interconnected by means of said stabilizing element, which is arranged to be extended across [[the]] atrial side of [[the]] a cardiac valve.

Claim 15. (currently amended): A means according to claim 11, wherein the distance [[D1, D2]] between [[the]] anterior [[8]] and posterior [[10]] leaflet bases is adjustable by means of varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

Claim 16. (currently amended): A means according to claim 15, wherein the stabilizing element [[14]] is attached to [[the]] an atrial side of each leaflet base [[8; 10]] and serves as a support for each leaflet [[said leaflets (4, 6)]].

Claim 17. (currently amended): A means according to claim 16, wherein the stabilizing element [[14]], in case of a prolaps, by means of shortening its length, is tightened between [[its]] selected positions [[26; 28]] at [[said]] leaflet bases [[8; 10]] close to [[the]] an

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apposition line (O) of [[the]] leaflets [(4, 6)] (the orifice plane of [[the]] a valve), said stabilizing element [[14]] thereby being straightly extended between said selected positions [(26; 28)], whereby even a central part of said stabilizing element [[14]] between [[said]] leaflet bases [(8; 10)] is located close to the apposition line (O) of [[the]] leaflets (4, 6), at the same time as [[the]] leaflet bases [(8; 10)] are mutually closer positioned and coaptation of [[the]] leaflets [(4, 6)] attained.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a rod or wire.

Clam 19. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a plurality of rods or wires.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is a structure comprising a plurality of rods or wires.